

Amendments to the Claims:

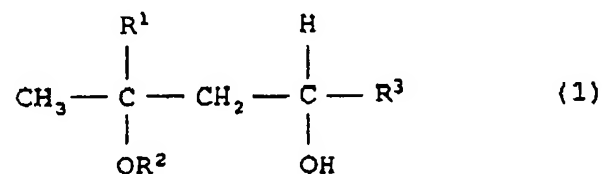
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An oil-based ink for a ball-point pen comprising at least a colorant and a resin, as well as a solvent selected from alcohols, polyhydric alcohols and glycol ethers each having a vapor pressure at 25°C of 0.001 mmHg or higher as a main solvent occupying 50% or more of the entire solvent, and satisfying at least one of the following (a) and (b):

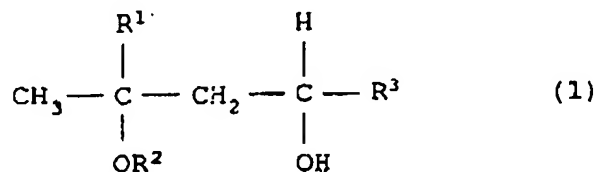
(a) comprising from 0.01 to 1.5% by weight of a high polymerization degree ~~polybutyl-vinylal~~ **polyvinyl butyral** with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or more, and

(b) comprising a pigment as the colorant and ~~polybutyl-vinylal~~ **polyvinyl butyral** as a dispersant, said main solvent being a solvent **polyhydric alcohol or glycol ether** represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)



where R¹, R², and R³ each represents independently H or CH₃.

2. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein in the case of (a) described above, the glycol ether is represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)



where R¹, R², and R³ each represents independently H or CH₃, **and R² represents CH₃.**

3. (Previously Presented) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein the colorant is a pigment or a pigment and a dye used in combination.

4. (Previously Presented) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein in the case of (a) described above, polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or less is further used as a pigment dispersant.

5. (Original) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 4, wherein polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 200 or more and 500 or less (theoretical molecular weight of from 10,000 to 30,000) is used as said pigment dispersant.

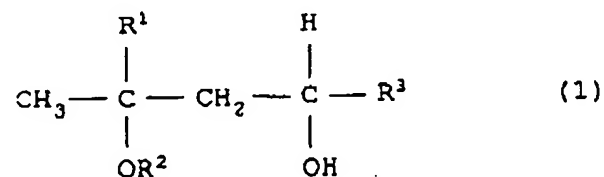
6. (Previously Presented) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein a neutralization product of a phosphate ester is contained as an additive.

7. (Original) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, wherein in the case of (b) described above, the polyvinyl butyral has an average molecular weight of from 10,000 to 30,000.

8. (Previously Presented) The oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen according to claim 1, which has an ink viscosity at 25°C of from 500 to 3,000 mPa·s.

9. (Original) An oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen comprising at least a colorant, a resin, and from 0.01 to 1.5% by weight of a high polymerization degree polyvinyl butyral with a polymerization degree of 900 (theoretical molecular weight of 60,000) or more, and further comprising a solvent, as a main solvent, selected from alcohols, polyhydric alcohols and glycol ether each having a vapor pressure at 25°C of 0.001 mmHg or higher in an amount of 50% or more based on the entire solvent.

10. (Original) An oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen comprising at least a pigment and a polyvinyl butyral as a dispersant and, further, comprising a solvent, as a main solvent, represented by the following chemical structural formula (1)



where R^1 , R^2 , and R^3 each represents independently H or CH_3 .

11. (Currently Amended) An oil-based ball ~~paint~~ point pen comprising an oil-based ink composition for a ball-point pen as set forth in claim 1, and a back-flow-preventive mechanism provided to a joint portion for connecting a tip and an ink containing tube.

12. (Currently Amended) The oil-based ball ~~paint~~ point pen according to claim 11, wherein an ink follower is further provided at a rear end portion of the ink composition in the ink containing tube to prevent ink evaporation and back flow.